

## Report of Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2005

Lewis Soil Conservation District

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Nezperce, Idaho 83543

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Counties Served Lewis

Legislative District(s) 7



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### Mission Statement:

*The Lewis Soil Conservation District is dedicated to conserving natural resources and promoting sound management practices that protect the environment and are economically feasible and productive.*

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### **Natural Resource Improvements Summary**

A total of 163 cooperators installed 31 different best management practices this past fiscal year. Listed below are highlights:

- 43,682 acres of continuous direct seed and no-till implemented for a total of 262,092 tons of soil saved
- 11,122 acres of grass for seed production implemented with a 77,854 tons of soil saved reducing soil erosion and improving water quality, soil health, and soil quality
- 13,075 acres of pasture and hayland plantings implemented with a total of 91,525 tons of soil saved reducing soil erosion and improving water quality and soil health and soil quality
- 7,267 acres in 153 CRP and CCRP contracts with a total of 50,869 tons of soil saved per year improving water quality, soil health, soil quality, wildlife habitat, air quality and reducing soil erosion
- 3 miles of fence installed to improve water quality
- 3 offsite water developments and one solar pump demonstration project were installed improving water quality
- Assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Commission and the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation District with general technical assistance
- 23 private wells tests were conducted in the Camas Prairie High Nitrate Groundwater Priority Area. Nine of those tests were above the safe drinking water standards. ISCC provides the technical assistance.



*Direct Seed/No-Till*

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### **Conservation District Priority # 1 Erosion Control**

- 43,682 acres of continuous direct seed/no-till totaling 262,092 tons of soil saved
- 11,122 acres of grass for seed production saving 77,854 tons of soil
- 13,075 acres of pasture and hayland plantings saving 91,525 tons of soil
- 7,267 acres of CRP and CCRP saving over 50,869 tons of soil

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### **Conservation District Priority # 2 Water Quality**

- 43,682 acres of continuous direct seed/no-till totaling 262,092 tons of soil saved
- 11,122 acres of grass for seed production saving 77,854 tons of soil
- 13,075 acres of pasture and hayland plantings saving 91,525 tons of soil
- 7,267 acres of CRP and CCRP saving over 50,869 tons of soil saved
- 5 Animal Feeding Operation contracts protecting water quality
- Solar Pump Demonstration Project and Riparian tree planting on 15.5 acres protecting water quality

### **Conservation District Priority # 3 Air Quality**

Several articles were published on our website as well as in our local newspaper to help educate the public on a number of issues concerning bluegrass seed production:

- Smoke in the air is not necessarily from bluegrass burning
- The Nezperce Prairie Grass Producers (NPGP) follow strict air quality guidelines
- The District encourages grass producers to follow the NPGP smoke management recommendations
- The District encourages producers to work with the Idaho Department of Agriculture and the NezPerce Tribe on smoke management

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### **Information & Education/ Public Outreach Highlights:**

- Monthly articles printed in our local county newspaper and 2 newsletters published on conservation, state and federal programs and District I&E efforts reaching 900 subscribers.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Arbor Day tree planting was held on April 29<sup>th</sup> with local schools and cities of Craigmont and Nezperce assisting. The city of Nezperce provided lunch for the group who planted over 1000 trees on city beautification projects.
- An educational edible soil and worm habitat program was held for kids K-2 on May 13<sup>th</sup> at Highland Elementary in Craigmont.
- Organized the annual IASCD poster contest with Nezperce, Craigmont and Kamiah schools.
- The 31<sup>st</sup> annual "Sixth Grade Field Day" was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Five schools attended this year and the local news station KLEW covered the event
- "Hatchery in the Classroom" program and fish release was held on May 25<sup>th</sup>. This educational program held in cooperation with the Nezperce School District, instruct students on salmon habitat and their struggle to survive.
- The District participates in the Lewis County Fair each year by setting up a display on conservation and program availability. The District also funds a 4-H livestock trophy.
- Instructed 4-H students and helped them build bluebird habitat houses on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Each year the District offers a scholarship for the Inland Empire Youth Camp.
- On June 20<sup>th</sup> the District held their annual Cooperators Appreciation Golf Day and BBQ. Twenty-nine golfers had fun at the Orofino Golf and Country Club. In the evening 70 cooperators and their families attended the BBQ.
- The District webpage is updated weekly <http://web.camaset.com/~lewisscd/>

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### **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- The District coordinates with the cities of Craigmont and Nezperce for an Arbor Day Celebration. This year the city of Nezperce provided lunch for the youth and staff who planted over 1000 trees.
- Coordinated with the city of Craigmont and sent informational flyers on water conservation/well testing/and the nitrate groundwater priority area.

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**Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners** - to plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
County	District Operations	\$ 7,000.00
State of Idaho	District Operations	\$ 9,700.00
USDA Farm Programs	Conservation	\$ 438,707.00
Bonneville Power Administration	Fish Protection	\$115,000.78
U.S. Fish & Wildlife	Fish and Wildlife habitat restoration	\$ 408.26
WQPA	Water Quality	\$ 50,596.99
Division II AFO	Water Quality	\$ 45,467.00
319 Groundwater Camas Prairie	Groundwater protection	\$ 15,186.79